



**ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 2012 - JUNE 2013**



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**REUBEN F. BRADFORD, Commissioner  
Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman  
Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman  
Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator**

*Established - 1975 Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes. Sec. 7-323  
Central Office - Connecticut Fire Academy, 34 Perimeter Road Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
Average number of full-time employees – 15 (General Fund)*

***Organization structure - Office of State Fire Administration, Training Unit and  
Certification Unit***

**Division Mission**

***To prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and disasters through leadership and collaboration  
with municipalities, fire departments and regional fire schools by delivery of quality  
consulting services, technical assistance, training, education and professional competency  
certification of career and volunteer fire service personnel.***

**Statutory Authority**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 7-323(j) - 7-323(s) the Commission is charged with and has primary responsibility for training, public fire and life safety education and professional competency certification for members of Connecticut's fire service.

**Public Service**

A Division of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) serves as the focal point for fire service training, public fire and life-safety education and professional competency testing and certification in support of Connecticut's fire service. The Commission's operating units are comprised of the Office of State Fire Administration, Connecticut Fire Academy and Certification Unit. Appointed members of the Commission represent the statewide fire service organizations and serve to advise Commissioner Reuben F. Bradford under the leadership of Chairman Peter Carozza, Jr.

We continue to leverage limited resources in an effort to provide quality services. Economies and efficiency are gained through partnerships and synergy with other DESPP divisions; Connecticut State Police, POST, and Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Emergency Telecommunications and Scientific Services. In addition, partnerships continue with numerous state and federal agencies including Department of Homeland Security, United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy. These collaborations yield increased opportunities for Connecticut's fire service. A significant and conscious effort is made to schedule programs and services within every geographic region of the state to ensure equal access to both the career and volunteer fire service.

Division staff members actively participate on state and national committees, boards and organizations in an effort to maintain a positive, proactive impact upon services as well as to advocate on behalf of Connecticut's fire service. By Connecticut General Statutes, the State Fire Administrator serves on both the State Emergency Response and Enhanced 911 Commissions in addition to the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisory Council. Agency staff and Adjunct Instructors represent the Commission on the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and various other agency/professional committees and working groups.

Staff and adjunct instructional staff are recognized for their dedication, professional expertise and selfless commitment to fulfilling our mission.

### **Improvements/Achievements 2012-13**

The following accomplishments suggest the wide variety of activities offered by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control:

- A total of 140 fire officers from throughout Connecticut attended this year's *Connecticut Fire Officer's Weekend* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Students successfully participated in one of six courses resulting in 2,240 contact hours at the nation's premiere fire education institution.
- Hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Firefighters Memorial Service. The names of Firefighter George Marshall Sanford (Redding Fire & EMS Co. #1 – 4/15/12) and Firefighter Patrick J. Brennan (Norwich F.D. – 10/13/30) were added to the Memorial Honor Roll as a result of line-of-duty deaths.
- Continued administration of the 800 FIRE LINE program, a national volunteer fire and emergency services recruitment tool. During the fiscal year, eighteen calls were received with only three referred to local fire, EMS, and other emergency response related organizations. A new recruitment initiative through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association *Everyday Hero Connecticut* drew prospective volunteers to a new dedicated website.
- The Commission's Regional Foam Trailer program was activated for response to incidents including train derailments and chemical tanker accidents providing resources not available locally.

- Three deliveries of *Introduction to the Fire Service* summer camp programs for youth 14 to 17 years of age were delivered to 90 students resulting in 7,560 contact hours.
- The Second Annual Fire Service College Fair was held in October with approximately 350 attendees. The goal of this program is to provide interested students options for post-secondary education and job training within the Fire Service and EMS fields.
- Continued offering the Fire Officer Seminar Series and Instructor Development Seminar headlined by national speakers presenting on a variety of contemporary topics. Six, single daylong sessions were held with 425 students resulting in 3,400 contact hours.
- Academy dormitory rooms were made available and occupied by students attending Connecticut Fire Academy and New England Disaster Training Center programs. Occupancy again exceeded 4,000 room nights. During the month of May, eleven FEMA Corps personnel providing disaster relief services within the state lodged at the Academy.
- Continued support to the Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations including coordination of the Annual Fire Service Day at the Capitol held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The agency's electronic mail list service continued to provide dissemination of important and timely information to more than 4,500 subscribers. Communications were reduced to a single daily message with multiple informational messages typically packaged. A total of 299 messages were transmitted during the fiscal year containing in excess of 1,000 items of public safety interest.
- In the area of Public Fire and Life Safety Education continued regular dissemination of press releases to the news media. Staff provided radio, television interviews and commentary on a whole host of fire service related topics. Loaned seven local fire departments, the BullEx fire safety stove prop with 415 participants. Assisted with the coordination of *Operation Save a Life* with more than 5,000 smoke and CO detectors given away to fire departments statewide.
- Continued support to the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard (CTHG) initiative. This group of volunteers provides direct support to local fire departments for both celebratory and grief assistance. The CTHG continues to play a high profile and active role in the planning and execution of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD.
- Design is being finalized for Academy Administration Building roof and exterior stairway replacement during late FY14 early FY15. Approximate cost is \$1.1 million.

### **Certification Unit**

Led by Director William Trisler, the Certification Unit of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) assesses fire service personnel in areas ranging from basic firefighting skills to executive officer leadership skills including technical rescue specialties, instructional methodology, curriculum development, public education and fire prevention. This knowledge and skills evaluation of specific competencies legitimizes the pre-requisite training requirements and instruction associated with fire service-related training courses and education. The certification process is an independent third party evaluation of requisite firefighter skills developed from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Professional Qualification Standards in support of the statewide fire service educational framework developed from these same standards. The certification process ensures emergency services personnel are better

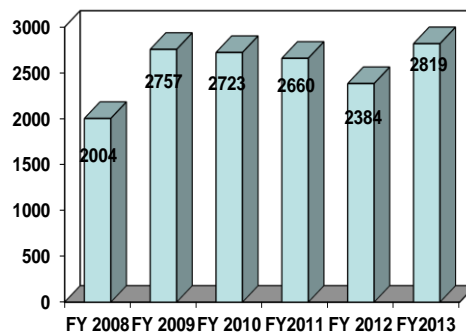
qualified to conduct significant incidents while routinely operating in highly hazardous exposure areas when serving the citizens of Connecticut.

The Unit is accredited by two international entities, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Accreditation of the certification process validates the professionalism and commitment of full and part-time staff and provides interoperability and portability to our customers as they pursue firefighting careers nationwide.

Eight new adjunct Examiners were hired during the fiscal year to offset reductions in part-time staff. A formal Examiner training and mentoring process was implemented with the goal of improving Examiner professional development and retention. The division's top priority remains meeting the increasing demand for services, while continuing to provide professional service to its customers.

Preparations for a reaccreditation site visit by the ProBoard Committee on Accreditation have been made with a site visit planned for the first quarter of FY 2014. Several technical committees and correlation committees have been established with the objectives of review, revision, and development of examination materials to address NFPA standards revisions and prepare for the IFSAC reaccreditation site visit projected for 2015. The Director attended the Pro Board and IFSAC Annual meetings as a voting member, and continues to meet with NFPA staff regularly to assure the CFPC is aware of national trends and is an active participant in the professional development of the fire service at the national level. There has been a renewed customer interest requesting the services of this unit for entry-level and promotional examination development and administration. The Director is the CFPC representative to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) LEAN Committee.

The Certification Unit conducted 32 NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training audits, six (6) promotional examinations, and 6,514 psychomotor and cognitive examinations for FY 2013, an 11.4 percent increase from FY 2012. 2,819 Pro Board and IFSAC certifications were issued for FY 2013 (Figure 1), an increase of 19.5 percent from FY 2012. The written examination success rate was 84 percent, a 4 percent increase over the past year.



*Figure 1 - Total Number of Certificates Awarded Over the Past Six Fiscal Years*

## **Office of State Fire Administration**

The Office of State Fire Administration provides overall coordination, management and support of division activities and facilities. Completing our second year of as a division within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, opportunities for inter-agency collaboration continued. The Office provides consulting services to communities regarding fire department organization and administration, Youth Fire-setter Intervention, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention and coordination of the regional Foam Trailer Emergency Response program.

In addition, oversight of the Statewide Fire Rescue Disaster Response Plan continues as a priority with staff serving as Fire Liaisons supporting the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Hurricane/Storm Sandy was the Plans single largest deployment of fire resources within our state with over 140 storm related rescues and removals performed by fire service strike teams and task forces. Additional activations were for the Sandy Hook Shooting, February Blizzard and the Governor's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative.

The Department of Public Health granted Supplemental First Responder Status to our division to allow administration of EMS first responder services at both the Windsor Locks campus and CPAT Center in Meriden.

Senior Division staff participated in the Fire 20/20 Recruiting and Retaining Diversity in the Fire Service program. Two outcomes were the development of a Connecticut Fire Academy instructor-mentoring program as well as a joint proposal with the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs to establish a Statewide Fire Service Diversity Recruitment and Testing Initiative.

Coordination and collaboration with the independent Regional Fire Schools is ongoing. Ribbon cutting for the \$3.7 million dollar expansion of the Hartford County Regional Fire School was held in October. Plans continue for design work to initiate construction at five additional Regional Fire Schools beginning in FY14.

In September 2012, the Commission adopted a Fire Service Code of Ethics as developed by the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

### **Training Unit**

The Training Unit under the leadership of Adam D. Piskura, State Director of Fire Training, delivers a diverse range of training and education programs ranging from the comprehensive Veteran's Administration approved, 14-week resident Recruit Firefighter Training program to Fire Officer and technical specialty level courses many with collegiate transfer credits. Courses are available for delivery throughout the state or at the Connecticut Fire Academy campus in Windsor Locks.

During FY13, 378 training programs were delivered reaching 7,386 students resulting in 177,350 student contact hours. Topical seminars and specialized training including the Annual

June Fire School provided training to over 883 students. In addition to course deliveries, the Connecticut Fire Academy offers services such as respirator face piece fit testing (27 fit testing sessions were conducted to 956 participants). Fit testing services were also provided to federal employees at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. Continued popular was delivery of the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) to assist municipalities identify future firefighters with the capability of career and lifelong success. A total of 1,310 candidates were registered with an overall passing rate of 78.4%. We continue to support the growth of the New England Disaster Training Center and assisted in the placement of two passenger rail cars to complete the construction of the railroad rescue/hazmat prop. Our Public Fire and Life Safety Educator directly supported the Public Safety Academy in Enfield as well as several high school career days throughout the state. Several staff members participate on national committees active in the development of training for emergency responders to incidents involving Advanced Powered Vehicles and I-95 Corridor Coalition's 3D Incident Management training. Last year's activity of validating friction loss for the NFPA has received a national recognition award. Finally, the CFA Bookstore had \$343,273.06 in sales with a total cost of goods sold of \$229,358.43 resulting in revenues of \$113,914.63.

### **Commissioners**

Members of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control are appointed by the Governor and represent statewide fire service organizations. Commissioners serving during this fiscal year: Peter S. Carozza, Jr., Chairman, West Hartford; Kevin J. Kowalski, Vice Chairman, Simsbury; Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary, Derby; Chief John J. Brady, Ret., Madison; Deputy Chief Clifton Cooper, Hartford; Chief David J. Dagon, Mansfield; Chief Frank C. Hilbert, Mystic; Megan Murphy, Fire Marshal, Trumbull; Chief Matthew Nelson, Ret., Newington; Chief Richard H. Nicol, Ret., Middlebury. Victor Mitchell, Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Services, Tunxis Community College, Robert Ross, CT State Fire Marshal, Department of Construction Services and William Abbott, CT State Fire Marshal, Department of Construction Services served as ex-officio voting members.